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O R 221115 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1988

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

RUMMRGA/ CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, MAY 22, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 22.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I: ICCS: ICCS PASSES UP VISITS TO POINTS OF LAST DETENTION WHERE RELEASES ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED; PROCEDURAL CONTROVERSY OVER SUBMITTING DIFFERING VIEWS OF LESS THAN ALL FOUR MEMBERS APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING; US CHECK FOR ONE MILLION DOLLARS DELIVERED.

PART II: TPJMC: CONTINUED LACK OF PROGRESS ON DEPLOYMENT; GVN DEPUTY FEELS ELEVATION OF MG TUAN TO HEAD OF PRG DEL HAS MADE LITTLE DIFFERENCE.

PART III: FPJMT (MIA): MAY 22 MEETING UNPRODUCTIVE; GVN APPROVES FPJMT VISIT TO GRAVES OF MILITARY PERSONS WHO DIED IN RVN.

PART IV: CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: COMMUNIST CASUALTIES PASS 20,000 MARK.

PART V: MR 1: MORE CHANGES IN POL- HUNGDEL IN HOI AN; BANNED POLITICAL PARTIES STILL OPEN IN DANANG.

PART VI: MR-2: CONTINUING HEAVY FIGHTING IN KONTUM; WORK ON ICCS SITE AT DUC CO PROGRESSING, BUT OUTLOOK FOR EARLY RETURN NOT HOPEFUL; LTG WATERS, CANADIAN CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, VISITS ICCS REGION III.

PART VII: MR-3: FIGHTING CONTINUES LIGHT; ICCS NEGOTIATING SAFE PASSAGE WITH PRG TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF US BOMBING; OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS OF XUAN LOC " POLGARIONS" DETAILED; VC IMPOSE TRAVEL BANS IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE.

PART VIII: MR-4 : TERRORIST SUSPECT CAUGHT IN PHONG DINH GRENADING; REGION VII CANDEL CHIEF PREDICTS ONLY THREE MONTHS MORE ; ICCS REGION VII TO TAKE UP PRG COMPLAINT RE DEFOLIATION; SAIGON THEAMS PROPAGANDIZE GVN POSITIONS IN DELTA TOWNS.
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PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. ICCS PLENARY MAY 21 OPENED WITH DISCUSSION OF CANEL DRAFT LETTER TO TPJMC RE ICCS RESPONSIBILITIES TO VISIT LAST DETENTION POINTS OF DETAINED AND CAPTURED VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL. HUNGDEL, WITH POLDEL SUPPORT, PROPOSED CHANGING DRAFT, LIMITING ICCS TO VISITS OF DETENTION POINTS IN FUTURE PRISONER EXCHANGES SINCE IT WAS " TOO LATE" TO VISIT DETENTION PLACES OF PEOPLE ALREADY RELEASED. TO CANDEL DISMAY, INDODEL ALSO SUPPORTED HUNGDEL PROPOSAL. (COMMENT: INDODEL MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE ISSUE.) LETTER, THEREFORE, WILL BE SENT TO TPJMC DRAWING ATTENTION TO ICCS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF PROTOCOL CONCERNING PRISONER EXCHANGE AND REQUESTING TPJMC TO MAKE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ICCS TO VISIT POINTS OF LAST DETENTION
IN FUTURE PRISONER EXCHANGES.

2. COMMISSION CONSIDERED EIGHT INVESTIGATION REPORTS, SEVEN FROM REGION III. ONE REPORT WAS UNANIMOUS IN CONCLUDING THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ALLEGATION. IN OTHER SEVEN REPORTS, CANDEL/ INDODEL CONDEMNED PRG WITH DIFFERING VIEWS OR NO PARTICIPATION BY HUNGDEL/ POLDEL. TWO HOUR PROCEDURAL BATTLE DEVELOPED OVER ONE OF THESE REPORTS IN WHICH HUNGDEL/ POLDEL FAILED TO PARTICIPATE. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL MAINTAINED THAT DIFFERING VIEWS COULD BE FORWARDED TO TPJMC, WITH REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 18(C) OF AGREEMENT AND 3(B) OF ICCS PROTOCOL, ONLY IF ALL FOUR MEMBERS SUBMITTED VIEWS. IF ONLY CANDEL/ INDODEL SUBMITTED VIEWS, THERE SHOULD BE NO REFERENCE TO AGREEMENT OR PROTOCOL. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL FINALLY AGREED TO MAKE " EXCEPTION" AND ALL REPORTS FORWARDED TO TPJMC. COMMENT: DESPITE FACT POLGARIANS HAD PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED CANDEL/ INDODEL VIEWS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH REFERENCE TO ABOVE ARTICLES, HUNGDEL/ POLDEL MAY IN THIS INSTANCE HAVE BEEN PREPARING THEIR POSITION WHEN REPORTS ARE RECEIVED COVERING CANDEL/ INDODEL INTERROGATIONS OF NVA SOLDIERS SO THAT WHEN SUCH REPORTS ARE FORWARDED THEY HAVE AS LITTLE STATUS AS POSSIBLE WITH NO REFERENCE TO AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND TWO REPORTS FROM REGION VII COVERING INTERROGATION OF NVA PERSONNEL ARE ON MAY 23 PLENARY AGENDA ALONG WITH LAO BAO HELICOPTER INCIDENT REPORT.

3. COMMISSION ORDERED INVESTIGATIONS BASED ON GVN COMPLAINT
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OF PRG VIOLATIONS IN REGIONS II, VI AND VII.

4. POLDEL MADE FORMAL STATEMENT REJECTING CANDEL " STATEMENT OF VIEWS" PRESENTED DURING MAY 16 PLENARY. POLDEL CLAIMED THAT EACH DEL HAD ITS OWN VIEWS AND SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED FOR THEM.

5. IN FINAL ORDER OF BUSINESS, GEN RYBA, HEAD OF MILITARY COMMITTEE, PRESENTED LENGTHY STATEMENT RE ICCS INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED US VIOLATIONS WHICH IS REPORTED IN SEPTTEL.

6. CHECK IN SUM OF \$1,000,000 WAS PRESENTED MAY 22 TO GRATEFUL ICCS DIRECTOR GENERAL NUR REPRESENTING US CONTRIBUTION FOR INTERIM FUNDING SUPPORT OF ICCS. WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHEN THE OTHER THREE PARTIES WILL BE MAKING THEIR CONTRIBUTION, ALTHOUGH GVN HAS ADVISED US OF ITS INTENTION TO MEET ICCS REQUEST SOON.

PART II: TPJMC

1. GVN " 7- POINT PROPOSAL" ADVISED AT MAY 22 TPJMC MEETING DISCUSSED SEPTTEL. GVN- DEL SOURCE MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS ABOUT DISCUSSION AT MAY 22 SESSION :

2. ON THE QUESTION OF AIR CORRIDORS, A GVN DEL MEMBER NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRG CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO GRANT AN 8 KILOMETER CORRIDOR TO PERMIT ICCS OBSERVATION OF THE PRISONER RETURN, THEY ACCEDED TO AN ICCS REQUEST FOR SUCH A CORRIDOR TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PRG CHARGE OF US BOMBING IN MR-3.

3. WITH RESPECT TO DEPLOYMENT, THE GVN CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT DEPLOYMENT TAKE PLACE TO THE SITES DESIGNATED IN THE AGREEMENT AND REJECTED THE PRG'S MAY 11 " DUAL DEPLOYMENT" PROPOSAL. ON

THE ISSUE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (ALSO RELATED TO DEPLOYMENT), THE PRG REFUSED AT THE MAY 22 MEETING EVEN TO CONSIDER THE 11- POINT DRAFT ADVANCED BY THE GVN LAST WEEK AND CONTINUED TO INSIST ON THE PRECISE LANGUAGE OF THE FPJMC 11 POINTS.

4. BG HIEP, GVN DEL DEPUTY CHIEF, AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF MG TUAN AS FORMAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CHIEF OF THE PRG DELEGATION APPEARS TO HAVE MADE NO DIFFERENCE IN HIS ATTITUDE AT THS SESSIONS. HIS ELEVATION HAS EVIDENTLY GIVEN HIM NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR DISCUSSION OR NEGOTIATION.

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART III: FPJMT (MIA)

1. THE MAY 22 FPJMT MEETING WAS UNPRODUCTIVE. DRV DELEGATION CHIEF REFUSED TO ATTEND THE SESSION BECAUSE OF U. S. RECON FLIGHTS OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND THE " UNSATISFACTORY WORKING CONDITIONS" OF THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS. THE DRV DELEGATION COMPLAINED AT LENGHT OF THE LACK OF GVN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND LACK OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

2. DRV DELEGATIN CIRCULATED A REVISED DRAFT OF THEIR APRIL 14 PROPOSAL ON MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 8 B OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. THE REVISED DRAFT CONTAINS LITTLE THAT IS NEW SUBSTANTIVELY BUT IS WORDED SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLY REGARDING NEGOTIATION OF DETAILS BY THE DELEGATIONS. THE OTHER DELEGATIONS AGREED TO STUDY THE REVISED DRAFT AND DISCUSS IT AS THE NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 24.

3. AT THE END OF THE SESSION, THE RVN DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THAT THE GVN AUTHORITIES HAD APPROVED A FPJMT VISIT TO THE GRAVES OF MILITARY PERSONS WHO HAD DIED IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THE RVN DELEGATION DID NOT SPECIFY DATES OR THE LOCATION OF THIS VISIT.

PART IV: CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS CHARGES THAT SINCE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WENT INTO EFFECT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE VIOLATED THE CEASEFIRE 14,485 TIMES, DURING WHICH 20,414 COMMUNISTS WERE KILLED WITH 215 CAPTURED. RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE 5,232 KILLED, 25,155 WOUNDED AND 1,337 MISSING IN ACTION. BESIDES, 885 CIVILIANS LOST THEIR LIVES, 2,449 WERE WOUNDED AND 1,195 ABDUCTED.

PART V: MR 1

1. REPORTED ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCREASED SLIGHTLY TO 13, CONSISTING OF 10 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), WITH 357 MORTAR ROUNDS, AND THREE INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM AND HARASSMENT. FIVE OF THE

ABF'S WITH OVER 300 ROUNDS WERE IN THE FIRST DIV. AO. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY "ZERO" KIA (FIRST REPORT OF NO KIA SINCE THE CEASEFIRE), 41 WIA; ENEMY 46 KIA, 2 RETURNEES. RVNAF ARTILLERY FIRED 1,734 ROUNDS; 1,012 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 722 SOUTH.

2. QUANG NAM POLOFF REPORTS THAT THE POLISH TEAM CURRENTLY LACKS BOTH AN INTERPRETER AND A RADIO OPERATOR. THE HUNGARIANS INDICATE THEY ARE ABOUT TO BE REASSIGNED AGAIN, AT LEAST THE THIRD HUNGARIAN CHANGE SINCE THEY ARRIVED. THE CANDEL AND INDODEL HAVE REMAINED STABLE.

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3. A QUICK SURVEY OF THE DANANG CITY OFFICES OF THE VNQDD, REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET, AND FARMER LABOR PARTIES SHOWS FLAGS STILL FLYING AND DOORS STILL OPEN IN SPITE OF THE GVN IMPLEMENTATION OF DECREE LAW 060.

PART VI: MR2

1. ONLY SIX INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED OVER THE PAST 24 HOUR PERIOD: THREE VC MININGS AND THREE HARASSMENTS BY FIRE. FOUR ACTIONS OCCURRED IN
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIEMBIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW 833

AMCONSUL JANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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6. AN INDONESIAN SOURCES REPORTS THAT ICCS DELEGATES STATIONED IN BEN HET TOOK A 6 KM HIKE ALONG ROASIFROM BEN HET TO DAK TO. HIKERS REPORTEDLY SAW NUMEROUS RUSSIAN- BUILT TANKS, ALL DESTROYED, ALONG THE ROAD. CANDELS IN PLEIKU HAVEN OT YET BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM SUBSTANCE OF THIS REPORT.

7. LIEUT. GENERAL WATEPI, CANADIAN ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF
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OPERATIONS, VISITED PLEIKU ON MAY 21. ACCORDING TO COLDX MACGREGOR, RANKING CANDEL IN TRUCE REGION III, THE GNERAL' S TRIP IS RELATED TO THE IMPENDING CANADCAN DECISION ON WHETHER TO REMAIN IN THE ICCS.

8. A DELEGATION DRAWN FROM THE ICCS REGIONAL HQS IN PHAN THIET VISITED THE SCENE OF THE MAY 20 TH GRENADE INCIDENT AT LONG HIEP HAMLET, BINH THUAN (NHA TRANG 528). THIS MARKED THE FIRST TIME IN TRUCE REGION IV THAT ALL FOUR CHIP' S PARTICIPATED IN A PRE- INVESTIGATION OBERVATION. REVISED CASUALTY FIGURES DISCLOSE THAT 5 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 18 WOUNDED AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT.

PART VII: MR 3

1 . COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL DURING THE LAST 24 HOURS WITH ONLY 13 INCIDENTS REPORTED: FIVE ABF' S, FIVE GROUND ATTACKS, TWO MININGS, AND ONE GROUND- TO- AIR FIRING. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE SIX RVNAF KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED; AND 17 NVA/ VC KILLED. TONG LE CHAN RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 48 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE; NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE REPORTED.

2. A PARTOL OF THE 49 TH REG MADE CONTACT WITH A COMMUNIST FORCE 12 KM EAST OF PHU KHUONG DISTRICT TOWN, TAY NINH, RESULTING IN 14 COMMUNISTS KILLED. AN ARMS CACHE WAS FOUND NEARBY CONTAINING 242 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR AND ROCKET AMMO, 10,000 ROUNDS OF AK AMMO, 18 POUNDS OF TNT, 20 ELECTRICAL FUSES, AND THREE KILOS OF DOCUMENTS WHICH INDENTIFIED THE COMMUNIST UNIT AS AN ELEMENT OF THE 429 TH SAPPER BATTALION.

3. IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, A VNAF HELICOPTER ON A TRAINING MISSION WAS SHOT DOWN 18 KM SOUTHEAST OF DON LUAN DISTRICT TOWN, KILLING THREE TRAINEES ABOARD. THE FLIGHT CREW WAS

RESCUED. (CONGEN COMMENT: " TRAINING MISSIONS" ARE SUPPOSED TO BE WITHIN ONE'S OWN AREA OF CONTROL, BUT 18 KM SOUTHEAST OF DON LUAN IS BASICALLY A COMMUNIST AREA. END COMMENT)

4. TWO MINE INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHILE RVNAF UNITS WERE CONDUCTING CLEARING OPERATIONS IN LONG AN AND GIA DINH
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PROVINCES. TOTAL CASUALTIES FROM BOTH INCIDENTS WERE ONE KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED.

5. A REGION V ICCS CANDEL SAYS NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO ORGANIZE PRG SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED AMERICAN BOMBING IN NORTHERN BINH LONG PROVINCE. CANDEL SAID IT IS A TRADE-OFF-- IF PRG WANTS INVESTIGATIONS THEY WILL HAVE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON GUARANTEES. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT PRG WAS IN A SITUATION LIKE " THE GIRL WHO CLAIMED SHE HAD BEEN RAPED-- SHE IS BETTER OFF TALKING ABOUT IT THAN SUBMITTING TO A MEDICAL EXAMINATION."

6. XUAN LOC ICCS CANDEL HAS PROVIDED CONSUL WITH GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNIST OBSTRUCTIONISM IN THAT TRUCE SUB-REGION. XUAN LOC TEAM HAS SUBMITTED ONLY FOUR REPORTS TO REGION V: THREE ALLEGING PRG VIOLATIONS WHICH WERE SPLIT 2-2 WITH COMMUNISTS ADMITTING INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED, BUT CLAIMING INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO BLAME PRG; AND FOURTH WHICH RESULTED IN FOUR DIFFERENT REPORTS.

7. IF GVN HAS TO MAKE SPECIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED PRG VIOLATIONS, " POLGARIANS" SAY ICCS INVESTIGATION IS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE AREA IN QUESTION IS OBVIOUSLY CONTESTED AND THAT THEY SHOULD FIRST DETERMINE WHO CONTROLS IT. ONCE INVESTIGATION BEGINS, PRINCIPAL " POLGARIAN" PLOY IS TO DENIGRATE EVIDENCE AGAINST PRG. COMMUNISTS CLAIM THERE IS NO PROOF THAT DEAD SOLDIERS ARE PRG BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CARRY PLAF IDS OR BATTLE PLANS; PERHAPS THEY WERE " ARMED FARMERS" OR " BANDITS." BY SAME TOKEN, THEY SAY THERE IS NO PROOF THAT PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS FOUND ON BODIES WERE NOT PLANTED THERE. THEY DISMISS TESTIMONY OF GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN WITNESSES AS " LIES," BADGER WITNESSES, AND SEIZE UPON ANY INCONSISTENCY TO UNDERMINE THEIR CREDIBILITY. ON ONE OCCASION, CANDEL PRODUCED A CAPTURED COMMUNIST SOLDIER WHO ADMITTED HAVING BEEN IN PLAF AND TAKEN PART IN VIOLATION, AND THEY CORROBORATED THE MAN'S IDENTITY FROM GVN POLICE RECORDS AND INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS OF HIS NATIVE HAMLET WHO REMEMBERED WHEN HE LEFT THE HAMLET TO FOLLOW THE VC. " POLGARIANS" CON- TENDED THAT GVN POLICE RECORDS WERE RIGGED AND CIVILIANS INSTRUCTED TO LIE. " POLGARIANS" SOMETIMES SEEM EMBARRASSED BY POSITIONS THEY MUST TAKE, OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWI
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FOUR CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING FIVE OTHERS. POLICE ARRIVING ON THE SCENE FOUND A SUSPECT SEATED NEXT TO THE TEMPLE'S CHIEF PRIEST WHO HAD ASSEMBLED HIS ENTIRE CHURCH COUNCIL. THE PRIEST SAID THAT AS NONE OF THE VICTIMS HAD PRESSED CHARGES AGAINST THE SUSPECT, A 16- YEAR- OLD CHURCH MEMBER, HE PREFERRED TO HANDLE THE AFFAIR HIMSELF. AFTER SOME TENSE NEGOTIATIONS, THE POLICE OFFICER ASKED THAT ALL COUNCEL MEMBERS
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OPPOSED TO RELEASING THE BOY TO THE AUTHORITIES RAISE THEIR HANDS. NOT WANTING TO BE SUSPECTED OF HARBORING COMMUNISTS, THE COUNCIL FINALLY ACCEDED TO THE POLICE. THE BOY LATER ADMITTED THAT LOCAL VC CADRE HAD PUT HIM UP TO THE JOB, HOPING THAT PEOPLE WOULD ACCUSE A NEARBY RF OUTPOST OF ERRANT FIRE. THE GVN HAS ASKED THE VI THANH SUB- REGION ICCS TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT.

3. REGIONAL CANDEL CHIEFS TRAVELLED TO SAIGON LAST WEEK TO HELP WRITE A REPORT TO OTTAWA ON THE STATUS OF ICCS. MOST CONTRIBUTORS WERE REPORTEDLY "GENERALLY NEGATIVE" ON CONTINUED CANADIAN PARTICIPATION. AMONG THE REASONS WERE CONTINUED POLISH AND HUNGARIAN PARTISAN PROTECTION OF PRG INTERESTS; INABILITY TO SECURE PRG -- WITH POLISH AND HUNGARIAN COMPLICITY-- ACCEPTANCE OF SAFE AIR CORRIDORS FOR ICCS FLIGHTS; AND THE TOTAL INCOMPETENCE OF THE ICCS SECRETARIAT WHICH HAS FAILED EVEN TO DRAW UP A BUDGET. AS A RESULT OF THE SECRETARIAT'S POOR PERFORMANCE, THE ICCS IS NOW IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY. CANADIAN ICCS MEMBERS HAVE ORGANIZED A BETTING POOL ON WHAT OTTAWA WILL ANNOUNCE AT THE END OF MAY. THE REGION VII CHIEF, WHO CORRECTLY PREDICTED THAT LAST ANNOUNCEMENT, HAS LAID HIS MONEY ON A FLAT THREE-MONTH NOTICE TO VACATE.

4. ICCS SAIGON HAS FORWARDED TO REGION VII A PRG COMPLAINT PROTESTING GVN DEFOLIATION IN ALLEGEDLY PRG-CONTROLLED AREAS OF CHUONG THIEN. THE GVN SAYS THE AREA-- NEAR VINH HOA HUNG VILLAGE, KIEN HUNG DISTRICT-- IS UNDER ITS CONTROL AND THE PRG COMPLAINT IS SIMPLY A POLITICAL GAMBIT TO SECURE ICCS RECOGNITION OF PRG AUTHORITY THERE. REGION VII HAS ASKED THE SAIGON PRG TPJMC DELEGATION TO SEND LIAISON OFFICERS TO ACCOMPANY THE INVESTIGATING TEAM. THE CANADIANS DOUBT THE PRG WILL COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST AND BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THERE WILL BE NO INVESTIGATION. THE PRG PROTEST IS THE FIRST EVER FILED IN REGION VII. THE "POLGARIANS" HAVE COMPLAINED FREQUENTLY, IN PRIVATE, THAT THE PRG COMPLICATES THEIR JOB BY FAILING TO PROTEST GVN-INITIATED INCIDENTS. EQUALLY WE HAVE SEVERAL REPORTS FROM AN XUYEN OF VC LOCAL CADRE CONFUSION OVER THE PRG'S FAILURE TO USE THE ICCS MACHINERY. UNINFORMED CADRE HAVE DRAWN THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ICCS WORKS FOR THE GVN. THE DEFOLIATION PROTEST MAY THEREFORE INDICATE A CHANGE IN PRG POLICY. THE PRG'S INITIATIVE TO THE ICCS MAY BE AN
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ATTEMPT TO DISARM ITS CRITICS FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT, AND AT THE SAME TIME, A SLY TACTIC TO REINFORCE ITS CLAIM TO A DISPUTED PIECE OF REAL ESTATE.

5. SAIGON'S CIVILIAN PROSELYTIZING SERVICE TEAMS VISITED SEVERAL DELTA TOWNS IN MAY SPREADING THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF RECENT EVENTS. ACCOUNTS FROM FIVE PROVINCES REPORT LARGE NUMBERS OF BUSINESSMEN, STUDENTS, LOCAL OFFICIALS, MONKS, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND NOTABLES ATTENDED THE SESSIONS HELD IN THE PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT CAPITALS. LATER MEETINGS ARE PLANNED AT THE HAMLET AND VILLAGE LEVEL TO BRING THE MESSAGE TO THE PEASANTRY. THE SAIGON SPOESMEN EXPLAINED THE GVN'S APR 25 LA CELLE SAINT CLOUD PROPOSALS AND RECOUNTED THE SUCCESS OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY TOLD THEIR AUDIENCES THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PRESSURING THE DRV TO LIVE UP TO THE CEASEFIRE ACCORDS BY POSTPONING AID TALKS AND SUSPENDING THE MINESWEEPING OPERATIONS IN HAIPHONG HARBOR.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPOKESMEN DECLARED THE ICCS WAS UN-EQUAL TO ITS TASK AND THAT THE PEOPLE MUST SUPPORT AND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE GVN TO STOP VC CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. THE GVN NO DOUBT LIBERALLY SALTED THESE SESSIONS WITH FRIENDLY CADRE ASKING WELL- REHEARSED QUESTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THE AUDIENCES RESPONDED WITH A GOOD MANY LIVELY, SOPHISTICATED, AND EVEN CRITICAL QUESTIONS.

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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <09-Oct-2001 by willialc>; RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, MAY 22, 1973
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To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
JAKARTA
OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH
JEC PARIS

VIENTIANE
WARSAW
DANANG
NHA TRANG
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
RUMMRGA CDRUSSAG G NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
FPJMT SAIGON

Type: TE

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